

04/25/2006 16:35 FAX 202 720 8819

OIA USDA



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 24 2006

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

This is in response to your letter of March 23, 2006, requesting a disaster designation for Honolulu and Kauai Counties, Hawaii, due to losses caused by rain and flooding that occurred from February 20, 2006, through March 26, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports, along with the additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, it has been determined that there were sufficient production losses in both counties to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Honolulu and Kauai Counties, Hawaii, as primary natural disaster areas.

There are no contiguous counties for this disaster.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "J".

Mike Johanns
Secretary